

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing custom stock images, comprising:
 - systems for receiving a request for the custom stock image originating from a customer and capable of generating one or more sales orders based on the received 5 request for the custom stock image;
 - systems for receiving the one or more sales orders and generating one or more assignment invitations based on the one or more sales order;
 - a photographer network comprising a database of information associated with one or more photographers to be considered for an assignment;
 - 10 a system for selecting one or more photographers from the photographer network, based at least in part on one or more photographer ratings associated with each photographer, to receive an invitation to participate in an assignment, the assignment invitations communicated to the one or more selected photographers associated with the photographer network;
 - 15 systems for receiving uploaded images from one or more photographers assigned to the assignment and capable of accepting or rejecting each of the uploaded images;
 - 20 systems for receiving the accepted uploaded images from the one or more image editors and capable of key-wording one or more of the accepted uploaded images;
 - one or more stock image libraries operable to receive and store the one or more key-worded images; and
 - 25 a computer server coupled to a communications network, the server including software operable to execute one or more queries associated with the custom stock image.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the customer may communicate with the server to submit the request for the custom stock image.

3. method for providing custom stock images, comprising:
 - receiving a request for the custom stock image;
 - generating one or more sales orders based on the received request;
 - generating one or more assignment invitations based on the one or more sales orders;
 - selecting one or more photographers from the photographer network, based at least in part on one or more photographer ratings associated with each photographer, to receive an invitation to participate in an assignment;
 - communicating the assignment invitations to the one or more selected photographers associated with the photographer network;
 - receiving uploaded images from one or more photographers assigned to the assignment;
 - determining whether to accept or reject each of the uploaded images;
 - receiving one or more accepted uploaded images;
 - key-wording one or more of the accepted uploaded images;
 - receiving and storing the one or more key-worded images; and
 - executing, using software on a computer server, one or more queries associated with the custom stock images.
4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:
 - rating the one or more photographers associated with the photographer network in one or more categories, the ratings in the one or more categories combined to form an overall rating for each photographer;
 - inviting one or more photographers to participate in one or more assignments based at least in part on each photographers overall rating; and
 - assigning one or more photographers to one or more assignments based at least in part on each photographers overall rating.

5. A method for rating one or more photographers, comprising:

determining a common rating for each photographer based on a combination of photographer ratings generated in response to an occurrence of one or more rating events associated with each photographer;

5 determining a conditional rating for each photographer based on a combination of photographer ratings generated in response to an occurrence of one or more rating events associated with each photographer;

10 determining a general rating for each photographer based on a combination of the one or more common ratings of the photographer and the one or more conditional ratings for the photographer, the general rating used determine if the photographer will be assigned to an assignment.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein:

15 a positive rating event increases the photographer's general rating, the positive rating event occurring when the photographer performs an assignment in accordance with one or more expectations of that assignment; and

a negative rating event decreases the photographer's general rating, the negative rating event occurring when the photographer fails to perform an assignment in accordance with one or more expectations of that assignment.

7. A method for adding one or more photographers to a photographer network, comprising;

presenting, to a photographer, a computerized photographer network participation request form for inputting data associated with each photographer;

5 communicating, to the photographer, a contributor's agreement which specifies the terms and conditions that the photographer must agree to before being added to the photographer network;

reviewing the inputted data associated with the photographers who have completed the form requesting participating in the photographer network; and

10 determining, based on the inputted data associated with each photographer, whether to add each photographer to the photographer network

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising activating each photographer for consideration for future assignments.